

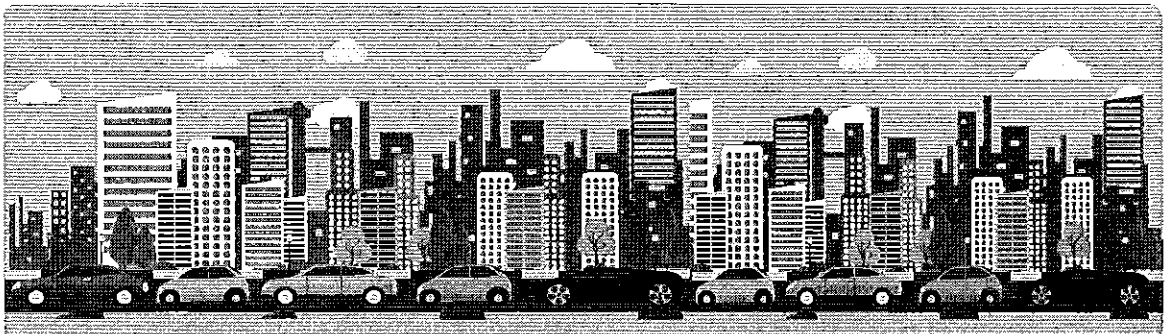
Traffic Safety Tips

Traffic safety is important. The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road and even in the most routine circumstances, is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. For those who drive, please take extra care in areas where children might be present and adjust to road conditions.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

- Stop, look, and listen for traffic
- Only cross at corners and crosswalks
- Obey crossing signals
- Cross only if clear
- Cross when traffic has come to a complete stop; make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you
- Walk on sidewalks. Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic
- Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping
- Do not be distracted—don't text and walk or wear headphones or earbuds to play loud music
- Wear bright or light-coloured clothing or reflective strips when walking in dusk or darkness
- Never run into the street
- Do not play games near parked cars; play in a safe place away from traffic.

Let's work together to make our community and our roads are as safe as possible.



Streetproofing Tips

Intermediate

Streetproofing is an essential skill for all students. Although it is often taught at the elementary level, it is also important for older students to remain vigilant as they travel to and from school on their own. Through practical knowledge and training, schools and parents can be prepared to deal with the various situations that students may encounter.

What's streetproofing all about? It's about helping kids identify and react to situations that are uncomfortable, unwelcome or even dangerous. Streetproofing skills help students become more aware of their surroundings and those in it. Schools, parents and guardians can help make personal safety second nature to student's daily activities. We can't follow our children around everywhere, but we can teach them to trust their own instincts and "keep their radars up."

Middle school students should be reminded to:

- travel with at least one other person whenever possible
- avoid taking shortcuts through parks and fields
- walk in well-lit and well-travelled areas
- keep valuables such as cell phones, expensive jewellery, laptops and personal music devices (ipod, M3P players) out of sight as much as possible when in public places
- be aware of suspicious behaviour and try to remember what the person or car looked like so it can be reported to school staff, parents or the police if necessary (plate numbers can be written in the dirt or snow if nothing else is available)
- be aware and alert; don't be distracted--never text and walk or wear headphones or earbuds to play loud music
- keep money hidden
- always carry identification.

Parents and/or guardians can:

- keep school contact information up to date, including cell and business numbers; the school needs to know who to contact in cases of emergencies
- make a point of knowing your child's friends; keep a list of their telephone numbers (cell and home), where they live and get to know their parents
- keeping an up-to-date colour photograph of your children
- know your child's approximate weight and height
- keep a medical and dental history of children's blood type, medical problems, scars, broken bones, pulled teeth, braces, glasses, medication allergies, fingerprints etc.

Adapted from The Ontario Principals' Council with contributions from the Toronto Police Services.